

CONFIDENTIAL

MAY 12 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Mechanical Translation

1. This Agency has learned that both Georgetown University and the Battelle Institute are among those actively interested in investigating the development of a system of mechanical translation.
2. It has come to our attention informally that the Department of Defense has considerable interest in the development of mechanical translating devices.
3. Accordingly, in the event that the Department of Defense decides to sponsor research and development in this field, this Agency would appreciate being informed so that consideration may be given to the inclusion of the interests of the Central Intelligence Agency in such a project.

S/
C. P. CABELL
Lt. General, USAF
Deputy Director

OIC (6 May 53)
JQReber/br
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CONCUR:

MAY 9 1953

Deputy Director/Intelligence

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6 May 1953 3-9954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
THRU: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT: Mechanical Translation

Problem:

1. To inform the Department of Defense officially of CIA's interest in the development of a system of mechanical translation.

Discussion:

2. Various offices of the Agency, particularly OSI and ORR, have for the last year expressed a need for a device that could translate one language into another, such as Russian into English, immediately and accurately.
3. The Agency, through OIC, has explored various mechanical translation projects currently under development. Two of the more promising seem to be that of the Georgetown University Institute of Linguistics for a machine translator and that of the Battelle Memorial Institute for a mechanical dictionary.
4. G-2, Army, is actively interested in persuading the Research and Development Board of the Department of Defense (or its successor) to lend financial support to one or more promising mechanical translation projects and has informally indicated that an expression of the Agency's interest would be helpful to its endeavors.

Recommendation:

5. That the attached communication be signed by the DDCI and forwarded to the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Approved (~~disapproved~~),
exceptions, if any.

James Q. Reber
Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination

Deputy Director (Intelligence)

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